

September 8th, 2010



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome! I am looking forward to getting to know your child. We have a busy year ahead of us and I hope the year will encourage, challenge and empower your child.

Let's work together to help your child be successful at school this year. Please feel free to communicate with me in your child's agenda book, by email (mcarter1@sunrisesd.ca), or by phone (853-7929), if you need to share information, ask a question, or have any concerns.

The following is an outline of some of our classroom expectations, the topics to be covered throughout the year, as well as some ideas for helping your child at home.

### **Mrs. Carter's Student Expectations:**



#### **Homework and Agendas**

It is essential that each student be self-motivated and responsible for completing all assigned work both in class and at home. To ensure success in this area and to encourage strong work habits and organizational skills we use a variety of tools. Daily use of an agenda book, homework monitoring and consistent home-school communication assists students in remaining on track.

Students should set aside an average of **45 minutes to 1 hour** each night for homework. This time may be used to complete unfinished class work and read or review material covered in class. If your child has worked diligently at home but was not able to finish his/her homework within the suggested time period, a note in your child's agenda book would be helpful to us! Students are encouraged to put their homework into their schoolbags as soon as the work is completed. This prevents homework from being left at home during the morning rush.



## Home Reading

Our classroom library and school library have many books on a variety of topics, both fiction and non-fiction. Books are to be borrowed and returned with care to ensure the quality of use for the years to come. It is expected that students will always have a book that they are reading. Library book exchange is scheduled on Day 2. Please refer to the program guidelines provided in the *Home Reading Program Outline* for specific details.



## Book Orders

*Scholastic* books make going back to school exciting for everyone! *Scholastic's* program brings award-winning novels; best loved classics and appropriate literature to our classroom and to your child. *Scholastic* provides books that are high interest, age appropriate and suitable for varying reading levels. *Scholastic* book orders also get free books for the classroom. The *Scholastic Book Order Form* will be sent home monthly. Please send cash or a cheque **payable to *Scholastic Canada Inc.*** Your cooperation is appreciated!

## Grade 5/ 6 Curriculum Topics: "What We're Learning"



## Language Arts

In Language Arts, students will be reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing and representing. We will work with a variety of genres, including stories, articles, novels, poetry, and non-fiction texts.

Students will practice writing through stories, journal entries, letters and essays. Students will be encouraged to share some pieces of written text in an oral presentation throughout the year.

Because writing is about effective communication, spelling, vocabulary, mechanics, and punctuation will be taught during the year. The tests for each weekly spelling unit are based on spelling rules; letter combinations that produce a particular sound, prefixes and suffixes, and possibly subject area themes. Students will be taught a variety of spelling strategies, and should be encouraged to prepare for these tests. Students will be required to complete weekly spelling booklets to reinforce their learning.

## How Parents Can Help With Language Arts:

- ❖ Encourage your child to read. Help them to find books on topics that interest them. Magazines and newspapers can be motivating as well. Talk to them about what they're reading. Read to them.
- ❖ Help your child to prepare for spelling tests. Encourage them to use strategies to help them learn the word. Generally, the more a student does with a word, the more likely the student is to learn to spell it correctly.
- ❖ Take the opportunity to help your child to develop his or her vocabulary. When you come across a new or unusual word, together, talk about what it means and how it could be used. Model the use of words by using varied vocabulary.
- ❖ Encourage writing. Invite your child to want to write. Give the student a journal, or a special notebook for their stories. Have them write letters and e-mails. Ask them to share the stories, essays they write, and tell them what you like about their writing, and what growth you've seen.



## Math

**Number:** basic operations with whole numbers and decimals, place value, fractions, percents, multiples, factors, prime and composite numbers.

**Shape and Space:** measurement, metric units, perimeter, area, volume, mass, shapes, and transformations.

**Probability and Statistics:** likelihood of an event, combinations, work with spinners and dice, predicting outcomes, surveys, mean, median, mode, bar graphs.

**Patterns and Relations:** t-charts, finding patterns and articulating rules, pre-algebra strategies.

**Problem Solving:** progressing to multiple steps and multiple operations, accepting that other methods may be equally valid.

## How Parents Can Help With Math:

- ❖ A strong basis in multiplication and division facts is essential. Some students may need extra review of this at home, especially with facts that they have identified as difficult.
- ❖ Encourage your child to ask for help and to ask questions in the classroom. They should know what to do before they go home.
- ❖ Involve your child in real world math of daily living. Take them with you to the grocery store, and have them round prices to the nearest dollar, determine how much 1kg of a bulk food item would cost, and compare prices between different products. Have your child create his or her own budget, calculate discounts, notice metric units on food packaging, and encourage your child to become more aware of the importance of math and being able to think mathematically.



### Band & Music

This year grade 6 Band will be taught by Ms. Corah Enns, and grade 5 Music will be taught by Mme. Brigitte Tycholis.



### Art

In art, students will develop their abilities as artists, and gain an understanding of the 7 art elements: line, shape, colour, form, texture and value. Media that will be worked with this year may include watercolour, tempera, pastel, collage, soft-lead pencil drawing, ink, coloured pencil, and charcoal.



### French

A few of the topics we will be learning about include: greetings, all about me, parts of the body, food, weather, and the family.



### Science

A few of the topics we will be learning about include: Properties of and Changes in Substances, Weather, Diversity of Living Things, and Flight.



### Social Studies

A few of the topics we will be learning about include: Early European, From British Colony to Confederation, Building a Nation, and An Emerging Nation.



### Physical Education/Health

Mr. Christian Bissonnette will teach Physical Education this year. Health will be taught by, me. A few of the Health topics we will learn about include: Personal and Social Management, Healthy Lifestyle Practices, and Safety.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your support and commitment to your child's success at school this year. I look forward to the year ahead!

Sincerely,

Mrs. M. Carter

*Please detach and return to Mrs. Carter by Friday, September 17th, 2010.*



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Yes, I have received and read the expectations and curriculum topics letter.

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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